ANIMADVERSIONS ON THE Laſt Speech and Confeſſion OF THE LATE WILLIAM Lord RUSSEL.

HAving peruſed a certain Printed ſheet, called, *The Speech of the Lord* Ruſſel *to the* Sheriffs, *together with the Paper delivered by him to them at the place of Execution*; I could no way imagine the ſaid Paper to be the Words of a Perſon of his Quality, or indeed of a dying Chriſtian, till I found underwritten, *Printed by* J. Darby *by Direction of the Lady* Ruſſel.

Upon this ſatisfaction, I could not forbear ſeriouſly and thoroughly examining the Contents of the Speech and Paper; and upon full conſideration thereof, I think it the Duty of a good Subject to give the World my Obſervation of the ſeveral Proteſtations and Aſſertions throughout it, and the Tendency they naturally bear.

In his ſhort Speech to the *Sheriff* he ſays little; only, *That he expected much noiſe at that place, and therefore was not fond of much ſpeaking, and much leſs at that time*. He tells the Sheriff, *He had ſet down in that Paper* (which was and there given him) *all that he THOUGHT FIT to leave behind him*: And truly in that he ſpoke like an honeſt man, for in the ſaid Paper he has left no more behind him, as he ſays, than he *Thought fit indeed*.

'Tis true, he continues in the ſaid Speech to affirm, *That the words of a dying man, I know of no Plot, either againſt the King's Life, or the Government*. The Truth and Validity of which dying Proteſtation, we ſhall ſee fully examined in his following Paper.

The ſubject of the firſt Paragraph in the Paper, is only *his Thoughts* of another World, and his Preparation made for Death; his Thanks to God for his Infinite Bleſſings, both in the Advantages of his Worthy Parents and Religious Education, with the Aſſurance of the Love and Mercy of God through the Merits of Chriſt, and Fulneſs of Joy in his Preſence, *&c.* All which I have nothing to ſay to, but only to wiſh with Cordial Chriſtian Charity, that he has found that Mercy from the hands of a Gracious God, which his own hopes aſſured him: For Heaven forbid the higheſt of Criminals ſhould be puniſh'd beyond the *Grave*; or that a Temporal puniſhment with a true Penitence might not be a ſufficient Expiation for the greateſt Guilt.

In the ſecond Paragraph, he gives you an account of his Faith, ſaying, *I dye of the Reformed Religion; a true and ſincere Proteſtant, and in the Communion of the Church of* England, *though I could never yet comply with, or riſe up to all the heights of many People.*

Here it is true he is of the Church of *England's* Communion; but indeed ſuch a *Mungril* Communicant of that Church, that he cannot comply with, or riſe up to the heights of many people of that Communion. Now how he has lag'd below the Members of our Church, not only the Fatal *Cauſe* that brought him to his End, demonſtrates; but a farther Example of his Religion we have upon Record in the Learned Works of his own good *Chaplain* the Author of *JULIAN*.

Where the Doctrine of, *Rebel my Country-men*, is ſo elaborately handled, and that great pattern of Chriſt *Submiſſion to Magiſtracy*, and that diſtinguiſhing *Shibboleth* of Chriſtianity, *Paſſive Obedience*, is ſo Artfully attaqued; that truly from ſuch a *Paſtor*, and ſuch *Principles*, 'tis undoubtedly evident, that (to uſe his Expreſſion) he was not extreamly well taught to reach to the heights of the Church of *England*.

From this part of his Paper, to the end of the Chapter, his Lordſhip begins to bear up ſmartly to the matter, and the whole Paper throughout, is but a Compact of the higheſt Uncharity againſt the King and Court, a continued Arraignment of the Judges and Juſtice of the Kingdom, and indeed the whole Government it ſelf: A heap of Exclamations againſt the monſtrous dangers of *Popery*, and an Appeal to the very *Mobile* to remove them; and laſtly a feeble and lame pretence of his own Loyalty and Innocence crutch'd up with ſo many *Reſervations*, *Evaſions*, and *Equivocations*, that even through his Lordſhips own *Spectacles* were never ſeen in the Rankeſt of *Jeſuits*; which you'll find as follows.

But first, for a taste of his *Innocence*, in Paragraph the 8th. he avers, *I never was at Mr.* Shepherds *with that Company but once, and there was no undertaking then of forcing and seizing the Guards, nor none appointed to view or examine them*: (which (nor none) I'll be so charitable not to take in the Affirmative, but read it (nor any). *Some discourse there was of the Feasibleness of it, and several Times by ACCIDENT in general discourse elsewhere I have heard it mentioned, as a thing might easily be done, but never consented to as fit to be done. And particularly at my Lord* Shaftsbury's, *there being some general discourse of this kind, I immediately flew out, and exclaimed against it; and ask'd if the thing succeeded, what must be done next but Massacring the Guards, and killing 'em in Cold Blood? which I look'd upon as so detestable a thing, and so like a Popish Practice, that I could not but abhor it. And at the same time the Duke of* Monmouth *took me by the Hand, and told me very kindly, My Lord, I see you and I are of a Temper: did you ever hear so horrid a Thing?*

Here observe the prettiest piece of more than Jesuitical Equivocation. The Conference at *Shepherds* contained no *Undertaking* of *Securing* or *Seizing* the Guards, *&c.* Only some Discourse about the *Feasibleness* of it. If so eminent a piece of work as Seizing the Kings Guards were only a piece of *Title Tatle* amongst these great men, a Tryal of Skill to argue for *Wit-sake*, or to pass away the time over a Glass of Mr. *Shepherds Sherry*: How comes it about the Lord heard it by his own Confession SEVERAL TIMES, and oh wonderful, all by *Accident!* A thing never intended to be put in Action, could never be the dull reiterated impertinent Talk so many times over, amongst persons of such Sense, nor could the Lord *Russel*'s Exclamation of, *What kill 'em in cold Blood?* And harmless *Monmouth*'s (*Oh horrid!*) to it, be a rational Repartee to a *Chimera*, or a Discourse only *du Passant*. No, no, the business is this; the Lord *Russel* is to die as Innocent as a *Sucking Lamb*, (for *Child unborn*'s out of fashion;) and because the seizing of Guards was only Sworn against him at the Meeting at *Shepherds*, to make the Witnesses Perjured, the Discourse of it at the *other several* Times and Places might be in order to the putting it into *Execution*, and what Treason ye please; but at that *one only* Time, 'twas all *harmless Prattle*, and nothing but the *Feasibleness* of the Thing the matter in debate.

However, tho' the Innocent Lord lets us know, and all this with no less than the words of a dying Protestant, that the feasibility of the business was the only Argument of the Guards seizing, in this 8th. Paragraph: In the 10th. Paragraph he gives a farther Narrative of this Meeting at *Shepherd*'s, and there, as damnable ill fortune would have it, he relates so different an account of the Thing, that *Bedlow*'s and *Prance*'s description of Sir *Edmundbury*'s Murder, are little less contradictory, *viz.* he says in these words, *The day before that Meeting, I came to Town for two or three days; and the Duke of* Monmouth *came to me, and told me, he was extreme glad I was come to Town, for my Lord* Shaftsbury *and some but few more would undo us all: How so, my Lord? I said. Why (answer'd he) they'll certainly do some disorderly thing or other, if some care be not taken; and therefore, for God's sake use your endeavours with your Friends, to prevent any thing of this kind. He told me, there would be Company at Mr.* Shepherd's *that night, and desired me to be at home that evening, and he would call me, which he did, and when I came into the Room, I saw Mr.* Rumsey *sitting by the Chimney, tho' he swears he came in after; and there were things said by some with much more HEAT than JUDGMENT, which I did sufficiently disapprove, and yet for these things I stand condemned. But I thank God my part was sincere and well meant.*

Here we find the face of Affairs strangely alter'd; for now the Duke of *Monmouth* comes with an Out-cry, that my Lord *Shaftsbury* and other *hot men* were for doing things so disorderly, as threaten'd no less than *to undo 'em all*; and *Shepherds* being the place of assignation, my Lord *Russel* heard some things said there with more *Heat* than *Judgment*. Now, what those things said must signifie the business of seizing the Guards, is plain, by my Lords owning it to be *that for which he stood condemned*; and that the debate must be upon the down-right *Resolution* and *Proposals* of putting the project into a speedy *Execution*, is every way manifest; For, if the above-said harmless *feasibleness* of it were all that had been argued amongst them, there had been no need either of *Monmouth*'s *Alarum*, the Lord *Russel*'s *Reproof*, or the Companies *Heat* out-running their *Judgment*; nor was there any occasion for his thanking God *that his part was sincere, and well meant*, if theirs had been so too.

And that the Reader may not mistake, and think possibly these two different Accounts of the Guards seizing might be at two different times, the Lord answers expressly, *No; for he never was at* Shepherd's *in that Company but once.*

However, the Lord *Russel* still upholds his Innocence; and tells you in the last Paragraph, *It was inferred from hence, that I was acquainted with those Heats and ill Designs, and did not discover them; But that was but* MISPRISION *of Treason at most.* I shall not answer for what pass'd at the Tryal, because 'tis not yet publish'd, nor was I present to hear it; and therefore I leave the dispute of that to the Judges learned in the Law, that were not of my Lord *Russel*'s Opinion. But supposing my Lord would insinuate himself only guilty of *Misprision* of Treason from the proofs against him at the *Tryal*; yet by his own proofs against himself in this intended *Vindication*, he has recorded himself to all Posterity plainly guilty of High-Treason, in that very Paper where he arrogates the highest of Innocence. For suppose, as he affirms, that the proof of his being in a Company once at Mr. *Shepherd*'s, where Treason was spoken, and the concealing it were only *Misprision*; *Misprision* being imagined to be a mans unfortunate hearing of Treason spoken in ill company, and afterwards the wanting of prudence or care to detect that Treason: Yet in his Paper, his Crime is of a deeper dye. He confesses there, He held Amity and Correspondence with persons that did not *once* or *twice*, but *several times* treat upon the same numerical Treasonable Projections. He visited 'em at their own Houses, as *Shaftsbury*'s for instance, and gave 'em meetings abroad; And tho' it be Misprision of Treason to conceal the hearing of it, tho' a man abjures and avoids the company of the Traytor that speaks it; yet this Innocent Lord continues the highest friendship with these very Treason-mongers, herds and nests with them at all turns, and has the continued Repetition of Treasonable Machinations in his

ars and yet his want of discovery is and shall be only *Mistrust of Treason*. But the Noble Lord makes a very honest and charitable excuse for his silence in not discovering, *viz. I hope no body will imagine that so mean a thought could enter into me, as to go about to save my life by accusing others.* That is, my Lord could hear Shaftsbury and his Crew projecting to play the *Cut-throats*, & to murder the Kings Guards, and that coming cold upon him, he indeed himself abhorr'd such a *Popish* practice; but at the same time he affirms it a more Gentleman like Quality to be true to Cut-throats than Kings, to Treason than Loyalty, and hopes no man will impute him capable of so mean a thought as to have discovered this Band of Associating Murderers, tho' the assassinating no less than the Murder of the Kings Guards. But my Lord is to be innocent still, and must and shall be so, for alas, the seizing of the Kings Guards was no Design at all, God knows, upon the Kings Person; for in the next Paragraph he is very outragious to think them *worthy a Sentence be had*; for he says, *Nothing was sworn against him, but some discourses about making some* STIRS; (a pretty Puritanical mincing word for a National Insurrection) which by no means he will allow to be *levying War against the King*. Besides, *by a strange Fetch, the Design of seizing the Guards, was construed a Design of killing the King; and so I was cast.* Good Heavens! that *Ignoramus* was out of fashion! and that a pack of *Popish Tory jury-men*, should ever interpret a Combination for seizing the Guards of a King to be the least ill intention against the Person of Majesty. Nay, the dying Lord is so extravagantly possess'd not only with his own undoubted Innocence, but even of those very men too that with all this Heat and Fury so many several times machinated so Murderous and Treasonable a Design, that in the 13th Paragraph *he wishes that the Gentlemen of the Law would make more conscience than to run men down by strains and fetches, and impose on easie and willing Juries, to the Ruine of Innocent men; for to kill by forms & subtilties of Law, is the worst sort of Murder. But I wish the rashness of hot men & the partiality of Juries, may be stop'd with my Blood, which I would offer up with more joy, if I thought I should be the last were to suffer in such a way.* In this 'tis plainly intimated, that his very Brethren in iniquity, those that not like himself *dissented* and *disapproved* of seizing the Guards, but the very Promoters & Defenders of the Design, are all *Innocent* too; insomuch that 'tis his last Prayer, That their guiltless Blood may not be sacrificed like His, but himself may be the last of Martyrs in this Cause.

I protest I am so startl'd at the latitude of some mens consciences, and the extravagance of some mens self-justification, that I wonder what 'tis they will allow to be Treason, or whether or no they have not expunged all those Texts in their Bibles that teach Obedience to Kings as the *Ordinance of God* till at last they believe there is no such *Duty* in the whole Body of Christianity, and no such thing as Treason in *Rerum Naturâ*.

But to return to his Lordships Confession. Amongst those unanswerable Demonstrations of his Loyalty to the Crown, and love to the King, with the description of his miraculous Innocence, he gives you his sense of the present State of the Nation; and in the second Paragraph he says, *I wish with all my Soul all our unhappy differences were removed, and that all sincere Protestants would lay aside fear, consider the danger of Popery, & to lay aside their Names, and agree against the common Enemy.* In that good wish I hope all good Protestants will joyn with him, provided his *Caring* and *Agreeing* be honest, such much is to the contrary. For he goes on, and says, *For Popery, I look on it as an Idolatrous and Bloody Religion, and therefore shall my Soul abhor it, by my Station to do all things against it, and by the most free and open Actions to my Soul, and such powerful ones, that I have not been for these nineteen years past, and more. And blessed be God I fully by the Act, and in the Spirit, Tryed.* Here this Protestant Lord ships real Loyalty is most *ingeniously* too makes his Declaration against himself, and that from his fatal Zeal against *Popery*, he forfeits the great and powerful Enemies he should prosecute, and expected the very Fate that befel him. And to explain himself further on this Topick, paragr. the 9th he says, *that his earnestness against the Duke about the Bill of Exclusion, lost me friends enough on this present Sufferings.* And again paragr. the 9th he says, *I do believe, and do still, that Popery is breaking in upon the Nation, and those that will advance it, will stop at nothing to carry on their Designs, I am humbly sorry to see my Protestants give their helping hand to their own Ruin: I hope God will preserve the Protestant Religion, and this Nation, tho' I am afraid it will fall under very great Trials, and very sharp Sufferings.* Here we have his Lordships Scheme of the whole Nations Destruction, by the already All-commanding power of *Popery*, and himself no less than one of the Primo *Martyrs* to it, only he thanks God he falls by the *Ax*, not the *Faggot*. And who is in this damnable new *Popish Plot* against the Lord *Russels* life, but that great and powerful Enemy the *Duke* of *York*; for his Bill of Exclusion earnestness, was the great influence in his Fall. And to effect this new Diabolical *Popish* Conspiracy, those that advance it, will stop at nothing to carry on their Designs; nay, the very *Protestants* have a hand in it, insomuch that he plainly insinuates that all those new *Protestant Evidences* against himself and the rest of the late Plotters; tho' men of *Quality* and *Fortune*, tho' men of their *own Faction*, are only so many *Popish Tools* engaged by *Subornation* and *Perjury*, from the great *Popish Enemies* of our Religion, to remove the great Zealots for the Protestant Religion, and cut the Throats of the Innocent, by no less than the most unexampled and most infernal of *Perjuries*.

Nay, the Root of all this premeditated *Plot* against their *Protestant* lives, lies not in the *Witnesses* and their *Suborners* only, but in the very Judges and Juries themselves. For he says in para. the 13th *From the Time of choosing Sheriffs, I conclude the Heat in that matter would produce something of this kind; and I am not much surprized to find it fall upon me. And I wish what is done to me, may put a stop and satiate some peoples Revenge, and that no more Innocent Blood be shed.*

Here 'tis observed, that not only the Justice of the Nation is impeached, but the wanting of the old *Ignoramus* Sheriffs and Juries is an evident combination against the lives of *Loyal, Innocent*, and *Protestant Subjects*; nay tho' the kind Lord confesses that *Shaftsbury* himself, once acquitted by *Ignoramus*, with the rest of his *Accomplices* were really Guilty of Conspiring the seizing the Guards, and murdering 'em in cold Blood, and raising of *Stirs* alias *Insurrections*; yet the want of

Sheriffs

Sheriffs and Juries to plead *Ignorance* even to such audacious Conspiracies; is a bringing of Innocence and *Loyalty* to *Scaffolds* and *Gibbets*, a gratifying the insatiate Revenge of *Popish Contrivers* Conspiring for *Guilty Blood*, and an Info shan making *Popery* rule the *Assemblies* of the whole *Court* and *City*.

By the Insinuation of such a *Popish* Confederacy, into the Heads of the *Vulgar* and *Ignorant* Reader; and before the whole Rabble of the Kingdom too easily misled by such an Apprehension, the Zealous Lady *Russel* lose no time in so good a Design, having gave to Printing a day before the Lord died; Here's a plain, *positive* and *visible* Incentive to the Multitude, to Revenge the Death of this Innocent Lord, and rise up in Arms to prevent the growth of *Popery*, and the effusion of more Guiltless Blood till then shed. But truly the peaceable Lord in the 6th. paragraph, says, *I forgive the whole World, particularly all those concerned in taking away my Life; and I desire and conjure my Friends to think of no Revenge, but to submit to the Holy Will of God*, &c. Here indeed the good Lord defires no Revenge, but in the same breath he intimates that his Blood *calls* for it, only his forgiving Charity *forbids* it. But this is so *transparent* a Mask, that half an eye may see through it, and this seeming Christian like Deborsation of the people from Rebellion, is but adding a new provocation to *even* begin it, whilst the generosity and goodness of this *Murdered* Lord, as he calls himself, is but setting a *higher price* on his Blood: Thus after so many false colours on his own Integrity, *and appealing to God he had no Design, by word, or ill Design in him.* Tho' at the same time he tells you both his *Counsels*, and their *Close* and his own privity to their *Practices*, *Projections*, he publishes that *false* insinuating Narrative his own pretended Innocence, that is not to be by any thing but the *Death* of the *Noble Peer*, and fervent the same Fact.

Thus every Design against the Peace of the and all Plots and Machinations whatever against King that Government has never so plainly made or by more *substantial* Evidence, are to be infinitely need into *Popish Fancy* and *Jealousies*. And Guilt whatever *case* or *Fact* lie at any door but the *Jesuits*; whilst the Execution of that Lord, is to be no other a *Test* than the Kings intended *Assassination*, &c. a *Popish Combination* and a *Popish Plot*. yet had the wretchedness of the Project, in all this masses for Innocent *Protestant Blood*. I defy any partial Reader to look o'er but this short Paper of Lord *Russels*, and to tell me there is not 100 th words greater discuss'd and bandyed by the Lord *Sh bury* and his *Colleagues* even in my Lord *Russels* Sheet of Paper, and all for the proving a *Plot* ag the Kings Life and the Government, than in all *C man's voluminous* Letters, the great and almost *Gorgon* of Popery.

I shall only finish with my true and cordial fenc the publication of that Paper, that 'tis a much gre *Dishonour* to the Noble Family of that *Great* Man, t the *Scaffold* he died upon.

FINIS.

LONDON:

Printed for *T. Graves*, MDCLXXXIII.

134723